

## About the Show

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Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association

### The Great American Songbook

Friday, March 17, 2023 at 7:30 pm  
Gallo Center for the Arts, Mary Stuart Rogers Theater

**Ryan Murray**, *conductor*  
**Ryan Silverman**, *guest vocalist*

## Program

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**Fred Ebb & John Kander** *Kander and Ebb Overture*  
arr. Larry Blank

**Pablo Beltran Ruiz** *Sway*  
arr. Sam Shoup

**Ray Henderson** *Birth of the Blues*  
arr. George Rhodes

**Consuelo Velasquez and  
Sunny Skylar** *Besame Mucho*  
arr. Vinico Ludovic

**Cole Porter** *Cole Porter Classics*  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

**Maury Yeston** *New Words*

**Sam Coslow and W.  
Franke Harling** *Feeling Good*  
arr. Matt Podd

**Cole Porter** *So In Love*

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**Al Hoffman, Walter Kent,  
and Manny Kurtz**  
arr. Matt Podd

***I'm Gonna Live Until I Die***

**- INTERMISSION -**

**Leroy Anderson**

***Duke Ellington Fantasy***

**Sam Coslow and W.  
Franke Harling**  
arr. Matt Podd

***Sing, You Sinners***

**Frank Loesser**  
arr. Billy May

***Luck Be A Lady***

**Frank Sinatra**  
arr. Austin Cook

***Home Again Melody***

**Charlie Chaplin**  
arr. Adam Podd

***Smile***

**Sammy Fain**  
arr. Yaron Gershovsky

***I'll Be Seeing You***

**Dean Kay and Kelly  
Gordon**  
arr. Matt Podd

***That's Life***



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### Rosters

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#### Orchestra Roster

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Ryan Murray, conductor

##### *Violin I*

Jeremy Cohen, *concertmaster*  
Rachel Patrick, *associate concertmaster*  
Jolán Friedhoff, *assistant concertmaster*  
Kirstan Hilton  
Mark Neyshloss  
Milka Kraveva-Castro  
Dana Myers  
Joespha Fath

##### *Violin II*

Myriam Cotton-Rack, *principal*  
Michael Nicholson, *assistant principal*  
Donald Grishaw  
Josephine Gray  
Donna Harrison  
Bogdana Mindov  
Brian Lee  
Josh Estrada

##### *Viola*

Lynne Richburg, *principal*  
Colin Belisle, *assistant principal*  
Meg Titchener  
Anne Martin  
Colin Belisle  
Jacob Hansen-Joseph  
Nao Kubota

##### *Cello*

Kevin Mills, *principal*  
Paul Rhodes, *assistant principal*  
Daniel Davies  
Hannah Harrington  
Farley Pearce



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### **Bass**

Kathryn Schulmeister, *principal*  
Heidi Franklin, *assistant principal*

### **Flute**

Johanna Borenstein, *principal*  
Gail Edwards, *piccolo*

### **Oboe**

Robert Walker, *principal*  
Jason Kennedy, *english horn*

### **Clarinet**

Bruce Foster, *principal*  
Collin Lewis

### **Bassoon**

Larry Rhodes, *principal*  
Simon Holland

### **Alto Sax**

Mary Fettig, *principal*  
Kevin Stewart

### **Tenor Sax**

Ricardo Martinez  
Isaac Lopez

### **Baritone Sax**

Michael Hernandez

### **Horn**

Sarah Ference, *principal*  
Anna Gilpatrick  
Mark Jansen  
William Harrington

### **Trumpet**

William Harvey, *principal*  
Bryce Schmidt  
Robert Giambruno  
Alia Kuhnert

***Trombone***

Tim Meyers, *principal*  
Don Benham  
Gary Jones  
Wayne Solomon, *bass trombone*

***Tuba***

Rod Mathews, *principal*

***Timpani***

John Weeks, *principal*

***Percussion***

Joseph Runnels, *principal*  
Andy Lewis  
Jimmy Chan

***Electric Guitar***

Timothy Roberts, *principal*

***Electric Bass Guitar***

Raymond Vargas, *principal*

***Harp***

Kristin Lloyd, *principal*

***Piano***

John Hillebrandt, *principal*

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*Roster as of 03/8/2023*

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**Artist Biographies**

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**Ryan Silverman**

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Guest Vocalist

**RYAN SILVERMAN** has been praised as the “smoothest, most assured bari-tenor, leading-man theatre voice at the moment” (*Playbill.com*). Silverman received a Drama Desk nomination for Best Actor for the role of Terry Connor in *Side Show* on Broadway, and has starred as Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* and as Billy Flynn in *CHICAGO*. Silverman also received Drama Desk and Drama League nominations for his performance as Giorgio in CSC’s 2013 production of *Passion*, one which the *New York Times* praised as “a performance of risk-taking, unconditional emotional commitment.” He has made soloist appearances with the New York Pops, Philly Pops, the NHK Symphony in Tokyo, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Kaohsiung Symphony in Taiwan, and Edmonton Symphony, among others. His television and film credits include *Suits*, *Good Fight*, *Gossip Girl*, *The 5 Minarets Of New York*, *Sex and the City 2*, and *True Blood*.

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Learn more about Ryan: <http://www.ryansilverman.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ryanbsilverman/>



**Ryan Murray**

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Principal Pops Conductor

**Ryan Murray** is currently Principal Pops Conductor for the Modesto Symphony, Music Director of the Auburn Symphony and Artistic Director of the Music in the Mountains Summer Festival. He is also the Director of Symphony Orchestra &



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## The Great American Songbook

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Opera at California State University, Sacramento, and the Conductor for the Sacramento Youth Symphony's premier orchestra. An award-winning opera conductor, Ryan spent his early career working as an assistant conductor and répétiteur, and serves as Music Director of Opera Modesto. He has served as an assistant conductor at the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, is the past Music Director of Fresno Grand Opera, and previously worked as a staff conductor for the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute (BASOTI) and The Opera Academy of California in San Francisco. Effortlessly moving between genres, Ryan currently enjoys a wide range of performance genres & platforms, including traditional orchestral and operatic repertoire, pops performances, movies in concert, and a notable emphasis on contemporary American operatic works.

Ryan was the winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's prestigious Ansbacher Fellowship for Young Conductors, and spent the summer in residence alongside the Vienna Philharmonic at the 2014 Salzburg Festival. Ryan was also awarded second place in the 2019 American Prize for Professional Orchestral Conducting for his work with the Modesto Symphony, and has garnered national recognition for his dynamic, compelling performances of contemporary opera as the winner of the 2017 American Prize in Opera Conducting for his highly lauded production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He was a 2016 semi-finalist for the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music for his production of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*.

A charismatic pops conductor, Ryan has worked with prominent artists such as Storm Large of Pink Martini, SuperDiamond and the phenomenal symphonic tribute to David Bowie. He was recently engaged to step-in at the last minute as assistant and cover conductor for Andrea Bocelli's *Believe Tour* with the Sacramento Philharmonic where he conducted rehearsals to acclaim. He has led some of the top vocalists from Broadway and beyond, including Ben Crawford (Broadway's *The Phantom of the Opera*), Ashley Brown (Broadway's *Mary Poppins*), and Alli Mauzey (Glinda from *Wicked*), as well as some of today's top young jazz vocalists including Tony DeSare and James Tormé. With an enthusiasm for film scores, Ryan enjoys the unique challenges of conducting movies in concert and is a *Disney & ICM Approved Conductor*. Recent and upcoming performances include Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, Pixar Animation Studios' *Pixar in Concert*, *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

Ryan holds degrees, *summa cum laude*, in Bassoon Performance and Voice Performance from



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California State University, Sacramento and also holds a master's degree, *with distinction*, in Music Business from the Berklee College of Music where he studied with industry professionals to develop tools for success in the modern music industry, including new technology, policy, law and finance. Driven by a lifelong passion for learning, Ryan has attended conducting masterclasses and seminars around the world. Ryan recently conducted the Romanian Chamber Orchestra in concert and was one of just eight conductors worldwide to be invited to the *Musiikin aika* Summer Festival Masterclass in Finland led by Musical America's 2017 Conductor of the Year & Principal Guest Conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Susanna Mälkki. He has previously attended the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music's Conductors Workshop; the contemporary music symposium led by Alan Gilbert featuring the New York Philharmonic; the Aurora Chamber Festival in Sweden, where he studied under Maestro Kurt Masur; the Lucerne Festival Academy's Conducting Masterclass in Switzerland; and the Eastman School of Music's Summer Conducting Institute. Widely praised for his tireless work ethic, natural poise, and impassioned, inspired performances, Ryan continues to connect deeply with orchestras and audiences alike, and has proven to be a formidable presence on the podium.

## Celebrating Support

### ***Celebrating Support for the Modesto Symphony Orchestra***

The MSO acknowledges with gratitude the following donors and sponsors whose generosity allows the orchestra to reach new heights in music and education. With your continued support, we are making a difference together and enriching the lives of our community, one note at a time.

[For a full listing of donors & sponsors, click here.](#)

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Mobile devices may be used to read program notes during the concert.

Program and artists subject to change. E&OE.





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## Administration & Board

## Artistic Team



**Ryan Murray**

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Principal Pops Conductor



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**Daniel R. Afonso Jr.**

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Chorus Director

A vibrant promotional graphic for 'The Great American Songbook'. It features a stylized, colorful background with a gradient from blue to red. At the top, the words 'THE GREAT American SONGBOOK' are written in a decorative, retro font. Below the text, there is a small inset photo of a band performing on stage. In the foreground, a smiling man in a striped shirt is looking towards the camera.

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**Daniel R. Afonso Jr.** has served as conductor of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus since its foundation in 2001 and has prepared several choral works with the ensemble. He is also Coordinator of Vocal and Choral Studies at California State University, Stanislaus. Afonso received a B.M.E. degree from the Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UNI -Rio), a M.M. degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a D.M.A. degree in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa. Dr. Afonso is originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and has studied conducting with Carlos Alberto Figueiredo, Cees Rotteveel, Eph Ehly, and William Hatcher.

Dr. Afonso has performed with choral groups in Brazil, U.S., and Europe, and has previously taught music at the Conservatório Brasileiro de Música, Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UNI-Rio), and Doane College, Nebraska. In 1988, he won the first prize and the best performance of Villa-Lobos work award at the Concurso Villa-Lobos de Canto Coral, a national choral competition sponsored by the Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Afonso is strongly committed to the performance of new music and has commissioned and premiered many new choral works in the last few years, including several of his own works as well as works by young composition students. He had his New York debut in 2012, conducting Mozart's Requiem with members of the MSO Chorus and students from CSU Stanislaus at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

He is also a composer, arranger, and editor of choral music and has choral works published by earthsongs, Colla Voce, and Alliance Music Publications. He served as composer-in-residence with the San Francisco Choral Artists during their 2014-2015 season and has also written works for the Los Angeles Children's Choir, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, and other ensembles in the US and abroad. He has written innumerable arrangements for the Modesto Symphony Orchestra, including a new version of The Star-Spangled Banner for chorus and orchestra, recently premiered at the

opening concert for the 2015-16 concert season. Dr. Afonso is widely recognized for his research and performance of Brazilian choral music and continues to frequently present workshops and lectures about the Latin American choral repertoire.

## Administration

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## About the MSO

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### History



**The Modesto Symphony Orchestra (MSO)** was founded in 1931 by Frank Mancini, Malin Langstroth, and Leonard Fristrom, who worked with local leaders to establish a musical and cultural focal point. In its early years, the MSO featured its members as soloists and performed concerts in churches, high schools, and colleges. As the orchestra matured, professional soloists and community choruses performed with the MSO. The 1970's through 1990's were a period of transition as the MSO

became a fully professional orchestra in 1977. New innovations developed, such as pops concerts, the formation of the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra in 1976, and the first Picnic at the Pops in 1994. The 21st century marked further growth with the formation of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus in 2001, becoming a resident company of the Gallo Center for the Arts when their doors opened in 2007, and the creation of the Modesto Symphony Youth Chorus in 2017.

Each season, the MSO performs five classics concerts and three pops concerts at the Gallo Center for the Arts and produces two community favorites, Picnic at the Pops at the E. & J. Gallo Winery and the Holiday Candlelight Concert at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church. Through its education and outreach programs, the MSO is able to reach over 15,000 students each year by working closely with local schools and providing free or low-cost opportunities to experience classical music.

Today, the Modesto Symphony continues to strive to enrich and enhance the community by bringing music of the highest artistic caliber and fostering lifelong music education and appreciation. The 2021-22 season marks the Symphony's 91st season and will showcase our Music Director candidates.

## **Mission & Values**

### **Vision**

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra strives to enrich lives and enhance our community's vitality and quality of life through music.

### **Mission**

We shall pursue this vision by producing and presenting music of the highest artistic caliber and fostering lifelong music education and appreciation.

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### **Values**

In pursuit of this vision the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association shall be guided by these values.

#### ***Creativity***

Foster an environment conducive to innovation in the type, format and venue of musical performance and to the



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administration and governance of MSO.

### ***Excellence***

Expect high levels of performance both on-stage and in MSO's administration and governance.

### ***Integrity***

Be honest and expect a foundation of strong moral principles behind all actions.

### ***Collaboration***

Look for opportunities to work with others on shared goals.

### ***Welcoming***

Strive to meet the needs and desires of all segments of the community through music performance and education.

## **Our 2022-2023 Season**

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### **| Our 2022-2023 Season Concerts**

#### **[Picnic at the Pops! The Music of Elton John](#)**

September 10, 2022

E. & J. Gallo Winery Grounds

#### **[Rhapsody in Blue](#)**

October 21 & 22, 2022

#### **[Rachmaninoff & Sibelius](#)**

November 11 & 12, 2022

#### **[Holiday Pops!](#)**

December 2 & 3, 2022

#### **[Holiday Candlelight Concert](#)**

December 20, 2022

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

#### **[Barber & Brahms](#)**

February 10 & 11, 2023

#### **[The Great American Songbook](#)**

March 17, 2023



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## **Mozart Requiem**

May 12 & 13, 2023

## **Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert**

June 2 & 3, 2023

### **2022-2023 MSYO Concerts**

#### **MSYO Season Opening Concert**

November 12, 2022 at 2 pm

#### **MSYO Spring Concert**

February 11, 2023 at 2 pm

#### **MSYO Season Finale Concert**

May 13, 2023 at 2 pm

*All MSYO concerts will be in the Mary Stuart Rogers Theater at the Gallo Center for the Arts.*

### **Celebrating Support**

#### **Thank You**

The MSO acknowledges with gratitude the following donors and sponsors whose generosity allows the orchestra to reach new heights in music and education. With your continued support, we are making a difference together and enriching the lives of our community, one note at a time.

*For our full listing and more information about how you can give the gift of music to our community visit [www.modestosymphony.org/support](http://www.modestosymphony.org/support).*

#### **Modesto Symphony Orchestra Annual Fund**

##### **Conductor's Circle**

##### **Conductor's Circle**

*The MSO acknowledges with gratitude the following donors for their generous support between February 27, 2022 through February 27, 2023. For more information about supporting the MSO, please contact the Development Associate, Joenna Llavore at (209) 523-4156 x 101.*



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### **Grand Tier**

\$25,000 +

Dianne Gagos  
Col. John & June Rogers

### **Diamond Baton**

\$15,000+

Wilmar & Judith Jensen  
Dr. Richard Kendrick

### **Platinum Baton**

\$10,000+

Kent & Ginger Johnson  
Robert A. Saunders

### **Gold Baton**

\$5,000+

Bill & Carolyn Ahlem  
James Beard  
Dr. Phillip & Margaret Beck  
Carole Boyett  
Anne & George Britton  
Justin & Monique Capp  
Judy & Mike Herrero  
Ronald Hoffmann  
Norma Foster Maddy  
Dr. Avi Nijjar  
Ruthann Olsen  
Jeff & Margaret Reed  
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Dr. James & Alice Yip

### **Silver Baton**

\$2,500+

Els Blom  
Meredith Brandsma  
Sheila Carroll



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John & Suzanne Casazza  
Toni Clark  
Dr. Richard & Nancy Fisher  
Maree Hawkins  
Charles & Kathleen Holmberg  
Dr. Brian & Siran Lenser  
Tony & Gail McBride  
Caroline Nickel & Tony Vlcek  
Barbara Padmos  
Hanna & Dieter Renning  
Glenn & Sue Ellen Ritchey  
Daphne Ritchie  
Deni Royer  
Burt & Polly Vasche

### *Bronze Baton*

\$1,650+

Anonymous  
Suzanne Allen  
Dr. Robert Altman & Dr. Yvonne Brouard  
Eric & Carol Benson  
Katherine Boyd  
Jason & Laura Bream  
Virginia L. Carder  
Dr. Richard Dewar  
Robert & Martha Falzone  
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Miriam Olsen  
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John & Patti Pfeffer  
Dr. Lyn Raible  
Carole Richard  
Donald & Donna Riley  
Joan Rutschow  
Tim & Susan Sanders  
Linda Sawdey  
R.V. "Bud" & Patricia Stone  
Joseph & Ann Swain  
Elizabeth Ustach  
Phyllis Walden  
John & Susan Wallace  
Mark & Laura Wharff

Mark & Wendy Yelland

## Musician's Club

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### **Benefactor**

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### **Patron**

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Dr. Kriengsak & Dr. Sudjai Itsara  
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Dr. Michael & Lisa Ringer  
Dr. James Robinson & Kathy Kohrman  
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Dr. William & Yuko Swartz  
Nancy Taylor  
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### *Sustainer*

\$250+

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\$100+

Anonymous  
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Gordon & Gayle Behrens  
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Phyllis Craft  
Lana Daily  
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